Appln. No. 10/809,711
Filed: March 26, 2004

Attorney's Docket No.: 39700-613001US/ NC40049US
Customer Number: 64046

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

determining a type of an access network via which a service is to be provided to a user equipment; ~~and~~

sending from a gateway to a policy control entity a message including an indication of the type of the access network via which the service is to be provided;

receiving at the gateway from said policy control entity a message indicating a traffic flow control policy decided on the basis of information regarding the type of the access network; and

enforcing at [[a]] the gateway in the provisioning of said service via said access network [[a]] the traffic flow control policy ~~decided on the basis of information regarding the type of the access network~~,

wherein said access network is located between the user equipment and the gateway.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

receiving data from an entity associated with the access network at the gateway; and determining the type of the access network based on said data.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, comprising receiving type information from the entity at the gateway.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the entity associated with the access network comprises a node connected to the access network.

Appln. No. 10/809,711
Filed: March 26, 2004

Attorney's Docket No.: 39700-613001US/ NC40049US
Customer Number: 64046

5. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the entity associated with the access network comprises said user equipment.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, comprising receiving a request for a data bearer at the gateway.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the request for a data bearer includes information regarding the type of the access network.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the request comprises another request for creation of a packet data protocol context.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determining comprises determining the type in the gateway.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising receiving at the gateway a message from an entity associated with the access network, and wherein the determining comprises determining the type of an access network based on the address of the entity associated with the access network.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising receiving at the gateway a message from an entity associated with the access network, and wherein the determining comprises:
determining the type of the access network supported by the entity associated with the access network; and
determining the type of the access network from the access type supported by the entity associated with the access network.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising receiving at the gateway a message from an entity associated with the access network, and wherein the

Appln. No. 10/809,711
Filed: March 26, 2004

Attorney's Docket No.: 39700-613001US/ NC40049US
Customer Number: 64046

determining comprises determining the type of the access network based on a characteristic of said message received from the entity associated with the access network at the gateway.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising determining in the gateway if a service specific policy is already available for the identified communication session.

15 .- 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deciding comprises selecting an access network specific policy.

21. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising determining if the access network operates in accordance with one of:
a second generation standard, a third generation standard, or a wireless local area network standard.

22. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the traffic flow control policy is a service specific policy.

23. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information regarding the type of the access network is one of a quality of service policy, a security policy, and a charging rule.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, the computer program configured to control a processor to decide a traffic flow control policy for controlling communications in a communication system, comprising:

determining a type of an access network via which a service is to be provided to a user equipment; ~~and~~

sending from a gateway to a policy control entity a message including an indication of the type of the access network via which the service is to be provided;

receiving at the gateway from said policy control entity a message indicating the traffic flow control policy decided on the basis of information regarding the type of the access network; and

enforcing at [[a]] the gateway in the provisioning of said service via said access network [[a]] the traffic flow control policy ~~decided on the basis of information regarding the type of the access network,~~

wherein said access network is located between the user equipment and the gateway.

26. (Currently amended) A communication system comprising:

different access networks;

a gateway configured to communicate with entities associated with the different access networks;

an access network type determination processor configured to determine a type of an access network of the different access networks via which a service is to be provided to a user equipment; and

a decision making processor configured to decide a traffic flow control policy to apply to communications via the gateway based on information of the type of the access network sent from the gateway to a policy control entity,

wherein the communication system is configured to control communications based on decisions by the decision making processor, the decisions including the traffic flow control policy sent from the policy control entity to the gateway, and wherein said access networks are located between the user equipment and the gateway.

27.-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

Appln. No. 10/809,711
Filed: March 26, 2004

Attorney's Docket No.: 39700-613001US/ NC40049US
Customer Number: 64046

an access network type determining processor configured to determine a type of an access network via which a service is to be provided to a user equipment; ~~and~~

a transmitter to send to a policy control entity a message including an indication of the type of the access network via which the service is to be provided, the apparatus further configured to receive from said policy control entity a message indicating a traffic flow control policy decided on the basis of information regarding the type of the access network; and

an enforcing processor configured to enforce at a gateway in the provisioning of said service via said access network [[a]] the traffic flow control policy ~~decided on the basis of information of the type of the access network~~,

wherein said access network is located between the user equipment and the gateway.

32.-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

access network type determining means for determining a type of an access network via which a service is to be provided to a user equipment; ~~and~~

sending means for sending a policy control entity a message including an indication of the type of the access network via which the service is to be provided;

receiving means to receive from said policy control entity a message indicating a traffic flow control policy decided on the basis of information regarding the type of the access network; and

enforcing means for enforcing at a gateway in the provisioning of said service via said access network [[a]] the traffic flow control policy ~~decided on the basis of information regarding the type of the access network~~,

wherein said access network is located between the user equipment and the gateway.

35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the access network type determining processor is configured to determine the type of the access network based on data received at the gateway from an entity associated with the access network.

Appln. No. 10/809,711
Filed: March 26, 2004

Attorney's Docket No.: 39700-613001US/ NC40049US
Customer Number: 64046

36. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 35, comprising a receiver configured to receive type information from the entity at the gateway.

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein the entity associated with the access network comprises a node connected to the access network.

38. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein the entity associated with the access network comprises said user equipment.

39. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 35, comprising a receiver configured to receive a request for a data bearer at the gateway.

40. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein the request for a data bearer includes information regarding the type of the access network.

41. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein the request comprises another request for creation of a packet data protocol context.

42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the access network type determining processor is provided at the gateway.

43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, comprising a receiver configured to receive at the gateway a message from an entity associated with the access network, and wherein the access network type determining processor is configured to determine the type of an access network based on the address of said entity associated with the access network.

44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, comprising a receiver configured to receive at the gateway a message from an entity associated with the access network, and wherein the access network type determining processor is configured to determine the type of the access network supported by the entity associated with the access network, and

determine the type of the access network from the access type supported by the entity associated with the access network.

45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, comprising a receiver configured to receive at the gateway a message from an entity associated with the access network, and wherein the access network type determining processor is configured to determine the type of the access network based on a characteristics of said message received from the entity at the gateway.

46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, further comprising an identifying processor configured to identify a communication session by the gateway.

47. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 46, comprising a determining processor configured to determine in the gateway if a service specific policy is already available for the identified communication session.

48. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising receiving at the gateway from a policy control entity a plurality of traffic flow control policies, and selecting one of said plurality traffic flow control policies based on said information regarding the type of the access network.

49. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, comprising a receiver configured to receive at the gateway from a policy control entity a plurality of traffic flow control policies, and a decision making processor configured to select one of said plurality traffic flow control policies based on said information regarding the type of the access network.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising making the traffic flow control policy decision at the gateway.

Appln. No. 10/809,711
Filed: March 26, 2004

Attorney's Docket No.: 39700-613001US/ NC40049US
Customer Number: 64046

52. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, comprising:

a transmitter configured to send from a gateway to a policy control entity a message including an indication of the type of the access network via which the service is to be provided; and

a receiver configured to receive at said gateway from said policy control entity a message indicating said traffic flow control policy decision.

53. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, comprising a decision making processor configured to decide said traffic flow control policy at the gateway.

54. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

determining a type of an access network via which a service is to be provided to a user equipment;

making at a policy control entity a traffic flow control policy decision using as one decision criteria [[a]] the determined type of [[an]] the access network via which [[a]] the service is to be provided to [[a]] the user equipment, the determined type of the access network being indicated in a message sent from a gateway to the policy control entity; and

sending to [[a]] the gateway from said policy control entity a message indicating said traffic flow control policy decision,

wherein said access network is located between the user equipment and the gateway.

55. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, comprising receiving a request for said traffic flow control policy decision from the gateway, wherein the request includes an indication of the type of the type of the access network via which the service is to be provided.

56. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, further comprising sending an inquiry for a subscription profile from the policy control entity to a separate database.

57. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, further comprising authorizing a user at the policy control entity.

Appln. No. 10/809,711
Filed: March 26, 2004

Attorney's Docket No.: 39700-613001US/ NC40049US
Customer Number: 64046

58. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an access network type determining processor configured to determine a type of an access network via which a service is to be provided to a user equipment;

a decision making processor configured to ~~make~~ decide at a policy control entity a traffic flow control policy ~~decision~~ decided using as one decision criteria a type of an access network via which a service is to be provided to a user equipment; and

a transmitter configured to send to a gateway from said policy control entity a message indicating said traffic flow control policy ~~decision;~~

wherein said access network is located between the user equipment and the gateway.

59. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 58, comprising a receiver configured to receive a request for said traffic flow control policy decision from the gateway, wherein the request includes an indication of the type of the type of the access network via which the service is to be provided.

60. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 58, further comprising a transmitter configured to send an inquiry for a subscription profile from the policy control entity to a separate database.

61. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 58, further comprising an authorizing processor configured to authorize a user at the policy control entity.

62. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an access network type determining means to determine a type of an access network via which a service is to be provided to a user equipment;

decision making means for ~~making~~ deciding at a policy control entity a traffic flow control policy ~~decision~~ using as one decision criteria a type of an access network via which a service is to be provided to a user equipment; and

sending means for sending to a gateway from said policy control entity a message indicating said traffic flow control policy ~~decision;~~

Appln. No. 10/809,711
Filed: March 26, 2004

Attorney's Docket No.: 39700-613001US/ NC40049US
Customer Number: 64046

wherein said access network is located between the user equipment and the gateway.